

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1           1. A human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle  
2 functions, the interface comprising:  
3           a knob which is bidirectionally rotatable at a rest level and a pressed level;  
4           a selected one of said vehicle functions being selected by said knob at said rest  
5 level; and  
6           said selected one of said vehicle functions being controlled by said knob at said  
7 pressed level.

1           2. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein each of said vehicle  
2 functions is associated with a detent position of said knob at said rest level.

1           3. The human-machine interface of claim 1 further comprising at least one  
2 annunciator indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said  
3 knob at said pressed level.

1           4. The human-machine interface of claim 1 further comprising a display screen  
2 indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said knob at said  
3 pressed level.

1           5. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein at least one of the vehicle  
2 functions is an on/off function, said human-machine interface further comprising an  
3 indicator reflective of the state of said on/off function.

1           6. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein said selected functions  
2 comprise a fan speed and a temperature.

1           7. A human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle  
2 functions, the interface comprising:

3           a knob which is bidirectionally rotatable at a first level and a second level;

4           a selected one of said vehicle functions being selected by said knob at said first  
5 level; and

6           said selected one of said vehicle functions being controlled by said knob at said  
7 second level.

1           8. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein each of said vehicle  
2 functions is associated with a detent position of said knob at said first level.

1           9. The human-machine interface of claim 7 further comprising at least one  
2 annunciator indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said  
3 knob at said pressed level.

1           10. The human-machine interface of claim 7 further comprising a display screen  
2     indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said knob at said  
3     second level.

1           11. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein at least one of the vehicle  
2     functions is an on/off function, said human-machine interface further comprising an  
3     indicator reflective of the state of said on/off function.

1           12. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein said selected functions  
2     comprise a fan speed and a temperature.

1           13. In a vehicle having a plurality of functions for controlling by a user, a method  
2     for selecting and controlling the functions, the method comprising:

3           selecting a one of said functions by rotating a knob at a first level about an axis of  
4     rotation;

5           translating said knob along said axis of rotation to a second level; and

6           controlling said one of said functions by rotating said knob at said second level.